

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 126049
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY STF:LWALKER:LAR
APPROVED BY STF:LWALKER
S/S-O :TGMARTIN
AF:RMOOSE (SUBS)
NSC:DARON (SUBS)
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THE SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE, AF, JCS, D, P
-----009436 180516Z /15

Z 180459Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FLASH
AMEMBASSY PARIS FLASH
AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA FLASH
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM FLASH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 126049

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, MOPS, PINT, CG,UK,BE,FR

SUBJECT:KOLWEZI RESCUE OPERATION: NEED FOR URGENT CLARIFICATION

1. THE BELGIANS ASKED US TO PARTICIPATE IN A PLANNED
RESCUE OPERATION -- TENTATIVELY SET FOR 1000Z ON THE 18TH--
BY PROVIDING JET FUEL AT KAMINA. WE AGREED AND ARE NOW
AWAITING BELGIAN CABINET DECISION TO GO AHEAD OR NOT. THE
BELGIANS TOLD US THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH WERE ALSO
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PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN -- IN SOME UNSPECIFIED WAY.

2. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM KINSHASA THAT THE FRENCH
HAVE INFORMED MOBUTU THAT THE GOF PROPOSES TO MOUNT AN
AIRBORNE RESCUE OPERATION ON MAY 19, USING FRENCH,
GABONESE AND PERHAPS OTHER AFRICAN TROOPS. THIS REPORT
SAYS THE BELGIANS HAVE AGREED TO JOIN WITH THE FRENCH,

ALTHOUGH THEY MAY CONSTITUTE A "SECOND WAVE" BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO MAKE PREPARATIONS IN TIME TO JOIN THE FRENCH. PROTECT FOREGOING SINCE IT WAS GIVEN TO OUR AMBASSADOR ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

3. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM THE BRITISH EXCEPT THROUGH A DEMARCHE HERE MAY 17 INFORMING US THAT THEY HAD TOLD THE BELGIANS THAT ASCENSION WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR STAGING

DURING A RESCUE OPERATION. THIS DEMARCHE CAME WELL BEFORE BELGIAN REQUEST FOR OUR PARTICIPATION THROUGH POL SUPPLY AT KAMINA.

4. WE ARE ALSO CONFUSED BY BELGIAN RESCUE PLAN WHICH ASSUMES TRANSPORTING EVACUEES TO LUSAKA OR NDOLA AIRPORTS AND WORD FROM EMBASSY BRUSSELS VIA PHONE THAT GOB STILL AWAITS ZAMBIAN CLEARANCE FOR THIS. IT OCCURS TO US THAT ZAMBIAN DECISION MAKERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO GOB. MOREOVER, WE NEED TO ASSESS, IMPLICATIONS OF KAUNDA'S PRESENCE HERE AT TIME OF RESCUE OPERATION. AND IT IS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE FOR US TO KNOW IF KAUNDA IS AWARE OF PLANNED RESCUE OPERATION.

5. LASTLY, WE ARE PERPLEXED BY MOST RECENT BELGIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE -- TO TRANSPORT SOME 50 TONS OF GEAR, INCLUDING AMMUNITION. ASSUMING BELGIAN PLAN
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REMAINS AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, WE WOULD REQUIRE A GOOD DEAL MORE INFORMATION BEFORE WE COULD ENTERTAIN THIS NEW REQUEST.

6. IN SUM, WE NEED URGENT CLARIFICATION OF BELGIAN, FRENCH, ZAIRIAN AND BRITISH INTENTIONS. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE IMMEDIATE DEMARCHE AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO FIND OUT, AS BEST YOU CAN, JUST WHO PROPOSES TO DO WHAT. IN ADDITION, TRY TO GET ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAS ABOVE. VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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APPROVED BY:STAF:LWALKER

S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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S E C R E T STATE 126049

EXDIS - FOR SECDEF

FOL STATE 126049 SENT ACTION BRUSSELS PARIS LONDON KINSHASA

USNMR SHAPE BE USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE MAY 18, 1878

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PINT, CG, UK, BE, FR
To: BRUSSELS PARIS MULTIPLE
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